

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

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NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENT SENTENCED IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on June 15, 2006, **JAHNERIA P. SINGLETARY, a/k/a “J,” and “J-Bird,”** age 27, of Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. **SINGLETARY**, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging her with conspiracy to distribute 5 grams or more of crack cocaine, was sentenced to 188 months’ imprisonment, 5 years supervised release, and was fined \$200.

At sentencing, the district court found that **SINGLETARY** was involved with more than 500 grams of crack cocaine. Additionally, **SINGLETARY** received an enhanced sentence because firearms were used during the crack cocaine conspiracy. **SINGLETARY**’s federal sentence is concurrent to a 20-year sentence she is serving on a state conviction.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Carbondale Police Department and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time. The Jackson County States Attorney’s Office also assisted in the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.